

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 27, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 249

Introduced by Senator Cox

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Torlakson)

February 24, 2009

An act to amend Section 120395 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to vaccinations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 249, as amended, Cox. Vaccinations: meningitis.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to develop information about meningococcal disease, *by April 1, 2002*, and make it available to each requesting degree-granting public and private postsecondary institution and to each requesting school district. Existing law authorizes the department to design and implement a public awareness campaign to reach members of the population identified as being at high risk for contracting the disease.

This bill would ~~expressly authorize this campaign to include children 11 years of age~~, *instead, require the department to develop information about meningococcal disease, including information pertaining to children who are between 11 and 18 years of age, by April 1, 2010.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares
- 2 that the Advisory Committee on ~~Immunizations~~ *Immunization*
- 3 Practices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1 has recently recommended that parents and adolescents between
2 11 and 18 years of age be made aware that a vaccine is now
3 available to protect this age group from the potentially fatal disease
4 known as meningitis.

5 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to do all the following:

6 (1) Encourage the State Department of Public Health to increase
7 the awareness of the availability of the vaccine to this age group.

8 (2) Encourage local public health officials to provide information
9 about meningitis, including the availability of, and
10 recommendations for, the vaccine, in any manner they deem
11 appropriate.

12 (3) Encourage local school districts to educate their students
13 within the 11 to 18 age group, as well as their parents, about the
14 meningitis disease, its potential danger, and the availability of a
15 vaccine to protect these children.

16 SEC. 2. Section 120395 of the Health and Safety Code is
17 amended to read:

18 120395. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall, no
19 later than April 1, ~~2002~~ 2010, develop information about
20 meningococcal disease, *including, but not limited to, information*
21 *pertaining to children who are between 11 and 18 years of age.*
22 The information shall include:

23 (1) Information about meningococcal disease, including
24 symptoms, risks, and treatment.

25 (2) Notice of the availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of
26 a meningococcus vaccination, with specific information as to those
27 persons at higher risk for the disease.

28 (b) The department shall make available to each degree-granting
29 public and private postsecondary institution, upon the request of
30 that institution, information developed by the department on
31 meningococcal disease.

32 (c) The department shall also send an information notice to each
33 school district advising each school district of the availability of
34 information developed by the department, and shall make the
35 information available to any school district upon the request of
36 that school district.

37 (d) The department may also use the information developed to
38 design and implement a public awareness campaign about
39 meningococcal disease to reach members of the population

- 1 identified as being at high risk for contracting the disease, including
- 2 children who are at least 11 years of age.

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